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Attorney Docket No.: **OOCL-26 (2000P031945)**

Appl. No.: **09/611,571**

Applicant: **Tetsuyuki MORIMOTO**

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Title: **POS SYSTEM**

TC/A.U.: **3627**

Examiner: **Andrew J. Rudy**

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GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on September 17, 2003 (Paper No. 13), which set a period for response to expire on December 17, 2003, that period being extended two months to expire on February 17, 2004, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A POS point-of-sale system
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of POS point-of-sale
3 terminal units connected thereto via a predetermined
4 communication line for data transfer/receipt between each
5 POS point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:
6 maintenance programs for the POS point-of-sale
7 system are stored in the host unit;
8 execution programs of the POS point-of-sale
9 system are stored in the host unit; and
10 each POS point-of-sale terminal unit is not
11 provided with any POS point-of-sale system execution
12 program, and has at least a transmission data generating
13 function and a communication function for data exchange
14 with the host unit.

Claim 2 (canceled)

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The POS point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein the transfer/receipt data is
3 subjected to data quantity reduction and compression.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The POS point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 3, wherein the data reduction and
3 compression are performed in units of image data frames by
4 comparing the present frame and immediately preceding frame
5 of transferred data, only data recognized to have been
6 changed with respect to the immediately preceding frame
7 being compressed.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The POS point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 3, wherein the data quantity reduction
3 and compression are executed by a process of transferring
4 only position data and character data in character data
5 frames.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The POS point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein the POS point-of-sale system
3 is managed by a managing system provided only on the host
4 unit side.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The POS point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein each communication between
3 the POS point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit is
4 executed via a network selected from a group consisting of
5 a LAN and a WAN.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): The POS point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein data having been sent out
3 from a POS point-of-sale terminal unit to the host unit
4 side is not held in the POS point-of-sale terminal side.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): A POS point-of-sale system
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of POS point-of-sale
3 terminal units connected thereto via a predetermined
4 communication line for data transfer/receipt between each
5 POS point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:
6 execution programs of the POS point-of-sale
7 system are stored in the host unit;
8 each POS point-of-sale terminal unit is not
9 provided with any POS point-of-sale system execution
10 program, and has at least a transmission data generating

11 function and a communication function for data exchange
12 with the host unit; and
13 execution programs of the ~~POS~~ point-of-sale
14 system are updated only at the host.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A ~~POS~~ point-of-sale system
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of different ~~POS~~
3 point-of-sale units connected via predetermined
4 communication line thereto and operable in ~~POS~~
5 point-of-sale systems for different kinds of services,
6 wherein:

7 ~~POS~~ point-of-sale system execution programs for
8 the different kinds of services are collectively stored in
9 the host unit;

10 each ~~POS~~ point-of-sale unit is not provided with
11 any corresponding system execution program, and has at
12 least a transmission data generating function and a
13 communication function for data exchange with the host
14 unit; and


15 a maintenance system for the maintenance of the
16 plurality of the ~~POS~~ point-of-sale systems for the
17 different kinds of services is provided only in the host
18 unit.

Claims 11-12 (canceled)

1 Claim 13 (previously presented): A system for effecting
2 point of sale functions, the system comprising:

3 a) a host, the host including means for storing all
4 programs related to execution of the point of sale
5 system, and means for storing all programs related to
6 maintaining the point of sale system;

7 b) at least two point of sale terminals, each of the
8 at least two point of sale terminals having
9 i) means for generating transmission data, and
10 ii) means for exchanging data with the host; and
11 c) communication means coupled with the host and each
12 of the at least two point of sale terminals, and
13 facilitating communications between the host and each
14 of the at least two point of sale terminals.



1 Claim 14 (previously presented): In a system including a
2 host, at least two point of sale terminals, and
3 communications means coupled with the host and each of the
4 at least two point of sale terminals, and facilitating
5 communications between the host and each of the at least
6 two point of sale terminals, a method for effecting point
7 of sale functions, the method comprising:

8 a) storing, solely at the host, all programs related
9 to execution of the point of sale system;
10 b) generating, by each of the point of sale
11 terminals, data related to sales; and
12 c) forwarding the data related to sales from each of
13 the point of sale terminals to the host as soon as the
14 data is generated.

1 Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14
2 further comprising:

3 d) purging, as soon as the data related to sales has
4 been forwarded to the host, the data related to sales
5 from the point of sale terminal forwarding the data.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): The ~~POS~~ point-of-sale system
2 of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of ~~POS~~
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): The ~~POS~~ point-of-sale system
2 of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of ~~POS~~
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): The ~~POS~~ point-of-sale system
2 of claim 10 wherein at least one of the plurality of ~~POS~~
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

1 Claim 19 (previously presented): The system of claim 13
2 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals
3 includes a voice input.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): The ~~POS~~ point-of-sale system
2 of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of ~~POS~~
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a
4 printer.

1 Claim 21 (currently amended): The ~~POS~~ point-of-sale system
2 of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of ~~POS~~
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a
4 printer.

1 Claim 22 (currently amended): The ~~POS~~ point-of-sale system
2 of claim 10 wherein at least one of the plurality of ~~POS~~
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a
4 printer.

1 Claim 23 (previously presented): The system of claim 13
2 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals
3 further includes a display and a printer.

1 Claim 24 (currently amended): Apparatus for use in a
2 system including a bank-related system for executing
3 settling processes based on sales data and a credit-related
4 system for executing settling processes based on sales
5 data, the apparatus comprising:

- 6 a) a host unit;
7 b) a shop-side ~~POS~~ point-of-sale terminal unit for
8 generating the sales data;
9 c) a maintenance center; and
10 d) data transfer lines connecting the host unit to
11 each of (1) the shop-side ~~POS~~ point-of-sale terminal
12 unit, (2) the bank-related system, (3) the
13 credit-related system, and (4) the maintenance center,
14 wherein the sales data used by the bank-related
15 system and credit-related system are provided from the
16 shop-side ~~POS~~ point-of-sale terminal unit, and
17 wherein programs for executing processes on the
18 shop-side ~~POS~~ point-of-sale terminal unit for a plurality
19 of different kinds of services are stored on the host unit.
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